

Minutes
Catawba County Board of Commissioners
Regular Session, Monday, September 19, 2005, 7:00 p.m.

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The Catawba County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Monday, September 19, 2005, at 7:00 p.m. in the City Council Chambers, Hickory City Hall, 76 N. Center Street, Hickory, North Carolina.

Present were Chair Katherine W. Barnes, Vice-Chair Dan Hunsucker, Commissioner Glenn E. Barger and Commissioner Barbara G. Beatty.

Commissioner Lynn Lail was out of town on business.

Also present were County Manager J. Thomas Lundy, Assistant County Manager Joellen Daley, Assistant County Manager Lee Worsley, County Attorney Robert Oren Eades, Attorney Debra Bechtel and County Clerk Barbara E. Morris.

1. Chair Katherine W. Barnes called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.
2. Commissioner Glenn Barger led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

3. The Invocation was offered by Chair Barnes.
Chair Barnes went on to say the Board was very pleased to be in the Hickory Council Chambers for the meeting and the Board had had a very good meeting with members from the Hickory, Long View and Brookford councils and noted that Commissioner Lail was unable to attend the meeting due to having to be out of town on business.
4. Vice-Chair Dan Hunsucker made a motion to approve the minutes from the Regular Meeting of September 6, 2005. The motion carried unanimously.
5. Recognition of Special Guests.
Chair Barnes welcomed everyone present.
6. Public comment for items not on the agenda. None.
7. Public Hearings:
 - a. Renee Hart, E-911 Addressing Coordinator, presented proposed road names for unnamed streets in Bandys and Jacob Fork Townships. The goal of the County's E-911 Office is to assign individual E-911 numbers to all dwellings in Catawba County and to name streets and driveways which meet the road naming requirements (at least 1200 feet and length and/or access three or more parcels). Two unnamed streets were identified in Bandys and Jacob Fork Township.

In Bandys Township, the unnamed street is located off Jacob Fork River Road and accesses six properties. The recommended name for this street is Ora Ln. In Jacobs Fork Township, the unnamed street is located off Hickory-Lincolnton Highway. Since most of the property owners on this right-of-way are Isenhours, the recommended name for this street is Isenhour Farm Road.

The Planning Board conducted a public hearing on August 29, 2005 regarding these proposed names and there was no opposition.

Chair Barnes opened the public hearing regarding these proposed names for unnamed streets. No one came forward for comment and the public hearing was closed.

Commissioner Beatty made a motion to approve the proposed names of Ora Ln. and Isenhour Farm Road. The motion carried unanimously.

b. Jacky Eubanks, Planning Director, presented in this general public hearing regarding the County's intent to apply for Community Development Block Grant funds. These applications are to be submitted to the North Carolina Department of Commerce for funds to be used for different activities including installation of infrastructure for businesses that will create jobs for low and moderate income persons, neighborhood revitalization and housing development and rehabilitation. Mr. Eubanks pointed out this was a general public hearing that did not require any action by the Board but is necessary prior to any submittal of any specific application by the County.

Chair Barnes stated this was a general public hearing that had been duly advertised and opened the public hearing for anyone who would like to speak regarding the Community Development Block Grant. Hearing and seeing no one, Chair Barnes closed the public hearing and noted this hearing did not require any action by the Board.

c. Jack Chandler, Utilities and Engineering Public Services Administrator, presented the public hearing to amend the Gregory Wood Products Community Development Block Grant-Economic Development (CDBG-ED) budget ordinance. In April 2004, the Board approved Resolution 2004-11 authorizing staff to develop, execute and file an application on behalf of Catawba County. The County received approval of a CDBG-ED grant in the amount of \$481,907 with County matching funds in the amount of \$154,126 for the installation and construction of water and sewer infrastructure and an industrial site access road to serve Gregory Wood Products. The grant originally provided \$216,315 to be used for street improvements. However, the North Carolina Department of Transportation completed the street improvements thus eliminating the need for the funding for street improvements. It is recommended by the Grant Administrator that \$196,315 from street improvements be transferred to \$18,377 for water improvements and \$177,938 to

sewer improvements. County staff requested that the \$20,000 of County funding for street improvements be transferred to sewer improvements. The following ordinance reflects these requests:

AMENDMENT#1
ORDINANCE#_____

CATAWBA COUNTY'S PROJECT BUDGET ORDINANCE
FOR THE 2004 GREGORY WOODS PRODUCTS
(CATAWBA COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT GRANT)

Be it ordained by the County Commissioners of Catawba County that pursuant to Section 13.2 of Chapter 159 of the General Statutes of North Carolina, the following grant project ordinance is hereby adopted.

The following revenues are anticipated to be available to complete this project.

Community Development Block Grant	\$ 481,907
Catawba County	<u>\$ 154,126</u>
	636,033

The following expenditures are appropriated for the project:

Expenditures

Water Improvements (CDBG)	\$ 107,752
Sewer Improvements (CDBG)	344,155
Sewer Improvements (County)	154,126
Administration (CDBG)	25,000
Planning (CDBG)	<u>5,000</u>
	\$ 636,033

Adopted this the 19th day of September, 2005.

Chair Barnes opened the public hearing regarding this transfer of funds and asked anyone wishing to speak to come forward. Hearing and seeing no one, Chair Barnes closed the public hearing. Commissioner Barger made a motion to adopt the change in the budget ordinance. The motion carried unanimously.

8. Appointments.

Chair Barnes presented Commissioner Lail's recommendations for the reappointment of Reverend Luther Knauff for a sixth term, Esther M. Ramseur for a fourth term and Mary Jo Williams for a third term on the WPCOG Aging Advisory Committee and the appointment of Jane Murphy for a first term to this committee to replace Reverend Lawrence Thomas who did not wish to be reappointed.

Commissioner Barger recommended the reappointment of Amy Sigmon to a first term and Jennifer Sumpter Mace to a second term to the Repay, Inc. Board of Directors.

Commissioner Barbara Beatty recommended the appointment of Paul Holden as Dr. Tim Markley's designee to replace Dr. Ann Hart on the Catawba County Child Protection/Fatality Prevention Team.

These recommendations came in the form of a motion. The motion carried unanimously.

9. Department Reports.

a. Public Health:

1. Doug Urand, Public Health Director, presented a request to accept \$19,000 in additional Health Promotion funds entitled "Eat Smart, Move More" awarded to Public Health from the Physical Activity and Nutrition (PAN) Branch.

The "Eat Smart, Move More Catawba County" Committee will partner with the Health Department and the three school systems to implement three school-based programs designed to help children increase physical activity and make healthier food choices in three area school districts – Take 10! (classroom based physical activity program), Winner's Circle (create and promote healthy eating through item labeling that offer healthy alternatives) and Food for Thought (classroom based nutrition education curriculum which teaches the importance of healthy eating). There is no County match for these funds.

Appropriation is as follows:

Eat Smart/Move More Revenue:	580400-638050	\$19,000
Eat Smart/Move More Expense:	580400-849188	\$19,000

Commissioner Barger made a motion to accept these grant funds. The motion carried unanimously.

2. Maria Reese, Healthy Carolinians Coordinator presented the Board with an update on Catawba County Health Partners and the Eat Smart, Move More effort.

Catawba County Health Partners was established in September 2004. The organization is composed of well over 100 members representing 38 community partners. The following vision and mission statements guide the work of the group.

Vision Statement: Partnering together to enhance the quality of life for all people in Catawba County.

Mission Statement: Partners joining together to improve the health and well being of Catawba County residents by identifying and addressing health priorities and disparities through public awareness and education, community involvement, maximizing resources, and influencing public policy.

Information from the Catawba County Health Report Card, Community Health Survey as well as other data led the group to identify the three following health priorities: access to healthcare; substance abuse, and childhood obesity. These priority health concerns are currently being addressed through a committee structure.

In response to the issues surrounding childhood obesity, the group established the Eat Smart Move More...Catawba County committee. This committee created a four-year action plan with the objective of decreasing the proportion of at-risk and overweight children ages 2-18 in Catawba County by 10% by December 31, 2010. One of the intervention strategies includes supporting plans to adopt policy changes in all three county school systems relating to improved physical activity and better nutrition.

The committee successfully submitted and received a \$19,000 grant from the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services Eat Smart Move More... North Carolina Program. The grant will help support the school based activities that address physical activity and nutrition through curriculum and instructional materials for Take 10!, The Winner's Circle and Food for Thought programs.

FAST FACTS about childhood obesity in Catawba County:

Children in Catawba County ages 2-18 were **36.6%** were at risk or overweight in year 2003.

As a result of 340 Catawba County 5th graders being screened for Body mass Index (BMI), **44%** of the children were at risk for being overweight or overweight in 2004.

39% of the 1,730 2nd graders screened for Body Mass Index (BMI) were overweight or at risk for being overweight.

Commissioner Beatty said she had received information on these type programs and other programs regarding nutrition and obesity at the NACO conference and she would be happy to get those materials to Ms. Reese for review.

Vice-Chair Hunsucker asked if puberty was taken into account when considering the BMI numbers and Ms. Resse said puberty and muscle mass and overall appearance is taken into consideration before a referral is made based on BMI.

b. Budget:

Judy Ikerd, Budget Manager, presented a request for the transfer of capital funds for Newton-Conover Schools to complete a project to re-roof and renovate the old Jr. High School Gym.

\$135,000 was approved in the 2004-05 fiscal year budget for renovations, including a new roof, for the old Jr. High School gym. This facility is used by the ACT Program and by the community. Due to the age of the building the repairs were more extensive than originally planned. Coupled with the rising cost of steel products, this caused the project to exceed available funds by \$16,124.35.

In order to complete this project Newton-Conover Schools is requesting the transfer of \$12,287 remaining in the completed roofing project at Newton-Conover High School and \$1413.12 from a project for general roofing, for a total of \$13,700.12. The balance of \$2424.23 will be paid from the school system's funds.

Supplemental Transfer

From: 420-750100-864200-33101-3-02Roof Maintenance	\$ 1,413.12
420-750100-864200-33110-3-02Roofing – NCHS	12,287.00

To: 420-750100-864200-33110-3-08Roofing – Jr. High	\$13,700.12
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Commissioner Barger made a motion to approve this transfer of capital funds. The motion carried unanimously.

c. Emergency Services:

David Weldon, Emergency Services Director, presented a request for supplemental appropriation for the Crisis Housing Assistance Fund Program (CHAF) to assist eligible families. This was a request to appropriate funds in the amount of \$66,500 to assist eligible families whose homes suffered significant damage as a result of the hurricanes and tropical storms of 2004.

The State of North Carolina has committed funds to assist the rebuilding of certain counties in North Carolina from devastation caused by hurricanes and tropical storms of 2004, subsequent flooding and landslides. The General Assembly authorized specific projects and programs to recover from this devastation. The Hurricane Recovery Act of 2005 authorized Crisis Housing Assistance Funds(CHAF) as a part of the overall recovery strategy. CHAF will assist eligible families whose homes suffered significant damage and have uninsured losses as a result of the above.

Catawba County had been awarded \$66,500 in funds to assist with repair/rehabilitation from 3 households that suffered damage from the 2004 hurricanes and tropical storms. \$60,500 to be utilized for the R-1 (Repair and Rehabilitation Assistance) Project and \$6,000 to be utilized for the B-1 (Aid to Local Government Project).

The County will be expected to expense funds upfront and will be reimbursed upon completion of each unit. The County has contracted with Western Piedmont Council of Governments to assist with this process.

The Board of Commissioners was asked to adopt the following which are a part of this supplemental appropriation:

- Project Budget Ordinance for CHAF Funding
- Administration Contract for \$11,500 with Western Piedmont Council of Governments
- Policies, Plans and Procedures for CHAF Funds
- Coordination Strategy Certification

The budget ordinance reads as follows:

ORDINANCE#_____

**CATAWBA COUNTY'S PROJECT BUDGET ORDINANCE
FOR THE 2005 (CHAF) CRISIS HOUSING ASSISTANCE FUNDS PROGRAM
(CATAWBA COUNTY CHAF GRANT)**

Be it ordained by the County Commissioners of Catawba County that pursuant to Section 13.2 of Chapter 159 of the General Statutes of North Carolina, the following grant project ordinance is hereby adopted.

Section 1. The project authorized is the Hurricane Recovery Act of 2005 in the work statement contained in the Grant Agreement (#018-0-04) between this unit and the Department of Crime Control & Public Safety, N.C. Redevelopment Center. This project is more familiarly known as the 2005 Catawba County (CHAF) Crisis Housing Assistance Funds Grant.

Section 2. The officers of this unit are hereby directed to proceed with the grant project within the terms of the grant document(s), the rules and regulations of the Department of Crime Control & Public Safety, and the budget contained herein.

Section 3. The following revenues are anticipated to be available to complete this R-1 (Repair and Rehabilitation Assistance project:

<u>Revenues</u>	
CHAF funds	(R-1) \$ 60,500

Section 4. The following amounts are appropriated for the R-1 (Repair and Rehabilitation Assistance) project:

<u>Expenditures</u>	
Repair	\$ 40,000
Rehabilitation	\$ 15,000
Service Delivery(Administration)	<u>\$ 5,500</u>
	\$ 60,500

Section 5. The following revenues are anticipated to be available to complete this B-1 (Aid to Local Government) project:

<u>Revenues</u>	
CHAF funds	\$ 6,000

Section 6. The following amounts are appropriated for the B-1 (Aid to Local Government) project:

Expenditures

Housing Inspectors	\$ 2,000
Housing Counselors	<u>\$ 4,000</u>
	\$ 6,000

Section 7. The Finance Officer is hereby directed to maintain within the Grant Project Fund sufficient specific detailed accounting records to provide the accounting to the grantor agency required by the grant agreement(s) and federal and state regulations.

Section 8. Funds may be advanced from the General Fund for the purpose of making payments as due. Reimbursement requests should be made to the grantor agency in an orderly and timely manner.

Section 9. The Finance Officer is directed to report quarterly on the financial status of each project element in Section 4 and 6 and on the total grant revenues received or claimed.

Section 10. The Budget Officer is directed to include a detailed analysis of past and future costs and revenues on this grant project in every budget submission made to this Board.

Section 9. Copies of this grant project ordinance shall be made available to the Budget Officer and the Finance Officer for direction in carrying out this project.

Adopted this the 19th day of September, 2005.

Supplemental Appropriation:

<u>Increase</u>		<u>Increase</u>	
110-260060-849096	\$60,500	110-260060-632210	\$60,500
CHAF (R-1) Grant		CHAF (R-1) Grant	
110-260060-849097	\$ 6,000	110-260060-632211	\$ 6,000
CHAF (B-1) Grant		CHAF (B-1) Grant	

Commissioner Barger asked, based on recent news accounts, why these funds are getting to the people two years after the events that caused the damage. David Weldon said there is a tremendous amount of paperwork that goes along with any funding program and that is the hold up as well as the number of different agencies that need to look at the damage. He said he was hopeful that the legislation that will result from the devastation in the Gulf states will help to streamline the process.

County Manager Lundy said that while the presentation had addressed the procedural issues, he would like to know what would be done to actually help the three families involved. David Weldon asked Laurie Huffman from WPCOG to give a quick overview. Laurie said two of the families have done most of the repairs themselves and it would be a reimbursement situation. She said one lady had to take on major loans to accomplish what needed to be done and they planned to work with her to get those combined into a loan with a lower interest rate. These people did receive some insurance payments but it was not enough to cover the damage.

Vice-Chair Hunsucker made a motion to approve the project budget ordinance, the administrative contract for \$11,500 with Western Piedmont Council of Governments, policies, plans and procedures for CHAF funds and the coordination strategy certification. The motion carried unanimously.

10. Attorneys' Report. Attorney Debra Bechtel reported that the court had granted the County's motion to dismiss Richard Todd York's lawsuit against the County and in the case of the County versus Hedrick and Hedrick, the County had been awarded court costs and attorney's fees of \$713.50.
11. Manager's Report.
12. Other items of business.
 - a. Commissioner Beatty reminded everyone of the Greater Hickory Classic and the NC League of Municipalities Convention taking place in October.

b. Section II F of the 2005-2006 Budget Ordinance states: "Reinventing Departments may create or abolish positions which impact the outcomes approved by the Board of Commissioners and within available revenues upon summary approval of the Board of Commissioners. Approval will come at the next regularly scheduled Board of Commissioners' meeting and will be attached and approved as part of the minutes."

Under this provision of the Budget Ordinance, the following personnel change has been made to Social Services' budget:

Mental Health Nurse Changed from ½ to 4/5 time

The responsibilities of the Nurse at Family NET has been to such a degree that overtime is a regular occurrence. In order to more appropriately reflect the work demands the positions needs to be changed.

13. Adjournment.
Vice-Chair Hunsucker made a motion to adjourn at 7:45 p.m. The motion carried unanimously.

Katherine W. Barnes, Chair
Board of Commissioners

Barbara E. Morris, County Clerk